

**JOINT STAFF/TAC REPORT
FALL FACT SHEET NO. 5
Columbia River Compact
September 18, 2002**

PURPOSE:	Review salmon and steelhead stock status and consider non-Indian and treaty Indian fishing options.
TAC:	The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed this fact sheet.

Management Guidelines

Endangered Species Act

<i>Listed Salmon and Steelhead of the Columbia Basin Present During August 1 -December 31</i>		
Species - ESU	Designation	Effective Date
<u>Federally Listed Species</u>		
<u>Chinook</u>		
<i>Snake River Fall</i>	Threatened	May 22, 1992
<i>Lower Columbia R. Spring/Fall</i>	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<u>Chum</u>		
<i>Columbia River</i>	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<u>Steelhead</u>		
<i>Snake River</i>	Threatened	October 17, 1997
<i>Upper Columbia River</i>	Endangered	October 17, 1997
<i>Middle Columbia River</i>	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<i>Lower Columbia River</i>	Threatened	May 18, 1998
<u>Oregon State Listed Species</u>		
<u>Coho</u>		
<i>Lower Columbia</i>	Endangered	July 16, 1999

- Coho salmon in the lower Columbia ESU are currently under review for listing under the Federal ESA.
- A combined treaty Indian and non-Indian Biological Assessment concerning fall fisheries was submitted to the NMFS.
- A Biological Opinion concerning fall fisheries in the Columbia River has been completed and was signed on August 15, 2002.

2002 Management Agreement

- The states and tribes reached an agreement for management of 2002 fall fisheries. The 2002 Management Agreement allocates the 31.29% URB harvest rate 8.25% to non-Indian fisheries and 23.04% to treaty Indian fisheries.
- Non-Indian fall fisheries will be managed in accordance with the "2002 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Chinook Allocation Agreement" which was completed through the North of Falcon negotiation process.

Excerpts From the 2002 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Chinook Allocation Agreement

- ✓ URB fall chinook impacts in fisheries downstream of the Snake River are allocated pre-season at 4.36% to the sport fishery and 3.89% to the commercial fishery. The Columbia River Compact will use this URB impact allocation as guidance for making in-season management decisions concerning the Columbia River sport and commercial fisheries. Actual URB impacts in the fisheries may differ from pre-season estimates based on actual fishery catches, stock composition, and run-size updates. The *U. S. v. Oregon* TAC will update the URB run-size beginning in mid-September.
- ✓ The Buoy 10 sport fishery is modeled at 90% of the chinook catch estimated for a full fishery to the end of the year (with a two fish daily limit) which is expected to deliver enough chinook to continue the fishery through Labor Day. URB impacts with this fishery are projected to be 1.70%; or 39% of the total sport impacts of 4.36%.
- ✓ The mainstem sport fishery below McNary Dam is modeled at 95% of the chinook catch estimated for a full fishery to the end of the year (with a two fish daily limit), which is expected to provide enough chinook to continue the fishery through September, unless the mid-September URB run size and fishery updates indicate this fishery cannot continue past mid-September. URB impacts associated with this fishery are 2.66%; or 61% of the total sport impacts of 4.36%. For 2003 fall fishery discussions, the mainstem sport fishery will begin at 100%.
- ✓ Expectations for the commercial fishery include:
 - Late fall fishery to begin the week of September 15. Fishery to occur in as much of Zones 1-5 as possible and will target coho or chinook as determined by remaining impacts and inseason run strength. The late September chinook harvest will be determined by the mid-September URB run size update and the actual URB impacts remaining that can be used by the commercial fishery.
- ✓ Expected total catch of fall chinook in the mainstem Columbia River downstream of the Snake River and in lower Columbia River tributaries is 85,400 of which 45,300 (53%) are expected to be harvested by the sport fishery and 40,100 (47%) by the commercial fishery. These catch estimates are based on pre-season abundance forecasts and fishery impacts. Actual harvest sharing will be influenced by stock specific fall chinook abundances and relative harvest rates by each respective fishery.

- Non-Indian fall fisheries will be managed not to exceed a total impact rate (including ocean and Columbia River fisheries) of 49% on LRH (Coweeman) fall chinook.
- Ocean and lower river fisheries will be managed to provide for a Bonneville Dam escapement of at least 50% of the upriver coho salmon return.
- Combined ocean and freshwater fisheries will be managed to limit impacts on wild coho destined for Oregon tributaries to no more than 14% based on the 2002 Incidental Take Permit issued by the OFWC. Freshwater fisheries will be managed not to exceed a 5% impact rate on Oregon state-listed coho and the impact rate is expected to be 3% based on preseason fishery expectations.
- Non-Indian fisheries will be managed for an impact rate not to exceed 5% for Columbia River chum salmon.
- Treaty Indian fall fisheries for 2002 will be managed to not exceed a 23.04% impact rate on URB fall chinook and 15% on wild Group B Index steelhead, in accordance with the Fall Season Management Agreement.

Lower Columbia River Sturgeon Allocation

- 2002 represents the final year of the current 3-year Joint State Agreement on sturgeon fishery management.
- Recent Columbia River white sturgeon population estimates have not increased as expected which will likely result in a reduced harvestable number for the next agreement.

- Based on the most recent catch updates the sport catch guideline remains at 36,500 not to exceed 38,500 and the commercial catch guideline is 9,300 not to exceed 9,800.

Stock Status

Summer Steelhead

- A total of 24,980 summer steelhead passed Bonneville Dam during April 1-June 30 (Skamania index) which was slightly less than the record large return of 28,700 in 2001 and exceeds the preseason forecast of 17,400.

<i>Summer Steelhead Dam Counts</i>						
		September 17	Cumulative Total Through September 17			
		Daily	2002	2001	2000	1999
Bonneville	Skamania Index	--	25,000	28,700	16,600	7,200
	Group A Index	1,500	308,300	480,400	205,300	163,700
	Group B Index	3,100	73,200	54,400	30,500	14,500
	Total	4,600	406,500	563,500	252,400	185,400
The Dalles		4,600	245,200	342,500	157,700	125,200
John Day		6,300	186,100	238,700	139,700	103,000
McNary		5,000	132,200	187,900	73,000	53,800
Ice Harbor		4,600	79,700	96,600	53,100	39,300
Lower Granite		2,600	47,300	40,300	26,200	19,500
Priest Rapids		100	12,800	21,700	9,000	6,400

- Typically Group A index steelhead returns are nearly complete by mid-September with 92% of the hatchery fish and 95% of the wild fish passing Bonneville Dam by September 17.
- Group B index steelhead typically peak during the first half of September with 60% of the hatchery fish and 78% of the wild fish passing Bonneville Dam by September 17.
- Returns of wild fish have also been strong to date with wild fish comprising 28% of the Group A index return and 37% of the Group B index return.
- Preseason forecasts were for 369,700 Group A index steelhead (105,000 wild fish and 264,700 hatchery fish) and 60,600 Group B index steelhead (39,000 hatchery fish and 21,600 wild fish).
- Passage to date indicates that Group A index returns are tracking less than preseason forecasts while Group B index returns are tracking better than preseason forecasts.
- Based on counts through September 16 the TAC updated Group A and Group B run sizes. A return of 448,300 summer steelhead to the Columbia River would represent the second largest return on record (since 1938) and exceeds the preseason forecast of 369,700.

<i>Upriver Summer Steelhead Returns to Bonneville Dam</i>										
Year	Group A Index (<78 cm)					Group B Index (>=78 cm)				
	Number Wild	%	Number Hatchery	%	Total	Number Wild	%	Number Hatchery	%	Total
1984	52,500	27	143,200	73	195,700	13,800	14	84,200	86	98,000
1985	51,900	18	229,600	82	281,500	13,000	32	27,900	68	40,900
1986	56,600	20	230,900	80	287,500	10,000	16	54,000	84	64,000
1987	106,700	45	131,600	55	238,300	14,000	31	31,000	69	45,000
1988	64,300	37	108,800	63	173,100	17,700	22	63,900	78	81,600
1989	57,500	30	135,600	70	193,100	12,400	16	65,200	84	77,600
1990	27,100	23	88,500	77	115,600	8,800	19	38,400	81	47,200
1991	60,300	26	173,800	74	234,100	6,200	22	22,100	78	28,300
1992	44,300	18	197,200	82	241,500	12,700	22	44,800	78	57,500
1993	28,700	21	108,000	79	136,700	4,400	12	31,800	88	36,200
1994	21,200	18	99,800	82	121,000	5,200	19	22,300	81	27,500
1995	26,000	14	154,000	86	180,000	1,900	14	11,300	86	13,200
1996	25,700	15	148,700	85	174,400	3,900	21	14,900	79	18,800
1997	30,900	15	177,300	85	208,200	3,900	11	32,800	89	36,700
1998	34,800	26	99,900	74	134,700	3,400	9	36,900	91	40,300
1999	56,600	32	119,900	68	176,500	3,700	17	18,400	83	22,100
2000	63,600	29	153,100	71	216,700	8,400	21	32,500	79	40,900
2001	137,200	27	377,900	73	515,100	12,000	14	74,300	86	86,400
2002 Proj.	88,300	26	248,500	74	336,800	33,900	30	77,600	70	111,500

Fall Chinook

- Observation of fall chinook passing Bonneville Dam began on August 15 to determine tule/bright stock proportions.

<i>Adult Fall Chinook Dam Counts</i>					
		Sept. 17 Daily	Cumulative through September 17		
			2002	2001	1996-2000 Average
Bonneville	Bright	6,279	273,821	221,200	151,400
	Tules	1,297	141,067	121,300	26,600
	Total Counts	7,576	414,888	342,500	178,000
The Dalles		3,400	189,900	131,100	90,700
John Day		6,200	121,700	81,700	65,300
McNary		2,700	88,000	58,800	42,300
Priest Rapids		1,000	16,700	13,600	15,100
Ice Harbor		400	9,400	6,500	2,600
Lower Granite		400	5,800	2,700	900

- The McNary Dam count of 88,000 adults exceeded the escapement goal of 43,500 for the 19th consecutive year.
- The Priest Rapids count of 16,700 adults exceeds the recent 10-year average of 11,400. Typically 74% of the fall chinook run passes Priest Rapids Dam by September 17.
- The Ice Harbor count of 9,400 adults is four times the recent 10-year average of 2,400. Typically 49% of the fall chinook run passes Ice Harbor Dam by September 17.
- Total passage to date of 5,800 chinook over lower Granite Dam represents the second largest return on record.
- Typically 82% of the bright adult return and 91% of the tule adult run passes Bonneville Dam through September 17.

- Based on counts through September 16 the river mouth run sizes remain at 390,800 brights and 318,000 tules.

<i>Fall Chinook Adult Returns to the Columbia River Mouth</i>					
Stock	1996-2000 Average	2001 Return	2002 Preseason Forecast	9/10/02 Update	9/17/02 Update
URB	153,800	232,600	273,800	273,800	273,800
SRW	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
MCB	45,600	75,300	91,800	91,800	91,800
BPH	30,300	125,000	136,000	185,000	185,000
LRH	49,000	94,300	133,000	133,000	133,000
LRW	9,500	15,700	18,300	18,300	18,300
LRB	NA	1,000	1,900	1,900	1,900
SAB	4,000	4,900	5,000	5,000	5,000
Total	292,200	548,800	659,800	708,800	708,800

- The TAC did not update the URB forecast based on counts through September 16 but does expect the URB run size to exceed preseason expectations.
- A total of 30,840 males, 25,360 females, and 3,630 jacks have returned to Spring Creek Hatchery through September 17, as compared to the escapement goal of 7,000 adults, including 4,000 females.
- Returns to Big Creek Hatchery have exceeded the escapement goal of 2,500 adults and have been comprised of 9,790 males, 6,150 females, and 181 jacks through September 16.
- Returns of jack fall chinook have been above average to date with 23,000 brights and 3,700 tules counted at Bonneville Dam through September 17. Typically 56% of the bright jacks and 93% of the tule jacks pass Bonneville Dam through September 17.

Coho

- The preseason run size forecast totaled 171,600 adults, including 112,700 early stock and 58,900 late stock.
- The Bonneville Dam count of 32,584 adult coho through September 17 is tracking ahead of the preseason expectation of 41,000 adults. Passage at Bonneville Dam is typically 30-65% (48% average) complete through September 17.
- A total 4,241 adult coho have returned to Bonneville Hatchery through September 16. Typically 15-30% of the adult coho enter Bonneville Hatchery by September 16.
- Through September 16 a total of 66 adult and 12 jack early stock coho have passed North Fork Dam on the Clackamas River. Early stock adult coho passage is typically 25% complete by September 16.

Sport Fishery Updates

Buoy 10 Fishery

- The Buoy 10 fishery (from the mouth upstream to the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line) opened August 1 for chinook, adipose fin-clipped coho, and adipose fin-clipped steelhead. The daily salmon bag limit was two fish prior to August 24 and two fish, of which only one could be a chinook, thereafter.
- An estimated 78,100 angler trips through September 15 resulted in an estimated 18,200 chinook and 5,400 coho being retained.

- During the last week of August, Oregon sampling data indicated that chinook fishing slowed and coho fishing improved with catch rates ranging from 0.15-0.52 chinook per rod and 0.05-0.27 coho per rod.
- During the first two weeks of September, Oregon sampling data indicates that chinook fishing has continued to decline with catch rates ranging from 0.07-0.03 chinook per rod while coho fishing has stabilized to an average of 0.13 coho per rod.

Lower Columbia River Salmon Fishery

- Under permanent regulations the Columbia River opened to summer steelhead angling May 16 below the I-5 Bridge and June 16 from the I-5 Bridge to the Hwy. 395 Bridge in Pasco, Washington. Anglers were allowed to keep adipose fin-clipped summer chinook during June 28-July 31, 2002.
- The mainstem Columbia River (from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to Hwy 395 Bridge at Pasco) opened for chinook and coho on August 1. Non-adipose fin-clipped coho must be released downstream from Bonneville Dam. The daily salmon bag limit is two adults per day.
- A total of 5,100 adult chinook were landed during the month of August from 37,100 angler trips.
- Effort is beginning to drop with nearly 800 boats counted on Wednesday September 11 and 720 boats on Saturday September 14.
- Catch rates have declined from a peak of 1 adult chinook for every 0.8 boats on September 6 to 1 adult chinook for every 1.2 boats during September 9-10.
- Currently catch rates are averaging 1 adult chinook for every 2 to 3 boats.
- The estimated adult chinook catch for September 1-16 is 12,445 (17,578 season total) from 45,600 angler trips (82,700 season total).
- An estimated 3,400 marked steelhead were retained and 1,800 unmarked steelhead were released during August 1 - September 16.

Fisheries Above Bonneville Dam

- During the first half of September the sport fishery at the mouth of the Deschutes River has been very poor for chinook and steelhead.
- Some chinook are being caught near the river mouths of the Washington tributaries in the Bonneville Pool.
- The Hanford Reach fall chinook sport fishery opened on August 16. Effort and catch are beginning to increase. Last week, boat anglers averaged 1 chinook per every 4 boat rods.

Commercial Fishery Updates

Lower River Fisheries

- Preseason adult chinook catch expectations were 16,800 in early August fisheries, 8,300 in late August fisheries, and 8,650 in fisheries planned for the last half of September.
- At the September 12, hearing the Compact adopted two daylight coho fishing periods in the area below Longview Bridge.

<i>Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Update</i>			
Stock	Early August	Late August	September 16 Zones 1-3
URB	790	1,930	1,120
BPH	2,120	6,600	180
MCB	960	2,810	620
LRH	3,290	160	300
LRW	0	0	150
LRB	40	0	20
SAB	860	0	20
Others	100	0	0
<i>Total Chinook</i>	8,160	11,500	2,410
Coho	6	55	11,284
W. Sturgeon	1,384	356	37
G. Sturgeon	0	0	0

- Preseason expectations were for 9,330 URB fall chinook to be landed during August and September fisheries. To date an estimated 2,720 URB adult fall chinook have been landed.
- Through September 16th an estimated 5,374 white sturgeon have been landed in lower river commercial fisheries which leaves an estimated 4,426 white sturgeon remaining on the 9,800 fish commercial catch guideline.

<i>Non-Indian Select Area Commercial Fishery Update</i>					
	Youngs Bay	Tongue Point	Blind Slough	Deep River	Steamboat Slough
Chinook	3,621	1,544	2,752	139	172
Coho	30,283	9,467	528	198	73
W. Sturgeon	80	56	33	3	0
G. Sturgeon	0	0	0	0	0

- The Youngs Bay Select Area fishery is currently open seven days per week through the end of October and landings have exceeded preseason expectations of 1,500-2,000 chinook and 13,000 coho. Based on LV clips an estimated 86% of the fall chinook landed in Youngs Bay to date have been SAB's.
- Other Select Area fisheries are currently open four nights per week through the end of October with a total coho catch expectation of 11,400; including 2,700 in Tongue Point, 2,300 in Blind Slough, 4,400 in Deep River, and 2,000 in Steamboat Slough.
- Based on Youngs Bay fall sampling about 3% of the coho catch is jacks.

Treaty Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery

Treaty Indian Commercial Fishery Update								
Dates		Total	Chinook			Total	Wild Steelhead	
		Chinook	URB	BPH	MCB	Steelhead	A Index	B Index
Aug. C&S	Total	80	9	61	9	960	265	63
Aug. 28 - 31	Ticket	17,383	10,161	9,582	2,629	759		
	Non-Ticket	5,336	3,189	564	1,366	85		
	Total	22,718	13,350	10,146	3,995	844	168	58
Sep. 4 - 7	Ticket	27,613	6,104	18,307	3,019	674		
	Non-Ticket	4,968	3,753	745	275	594		
	Total	32,581	9,857	19,051	3,294	1,268	197	168
Sep. 11 - 14	Ticket	30,434	10,821	16,342	3,062	1,948		
	Non-Ticket	11,466	8,716	70	2,465	496		
	Total	41,900	19,537	16,412	5,527	2,444	394	429
Grand Total		97,280	37,627	45,671	12,825	5,515	1,024	718

- During the first two fishing periods landings included 661 coho, 157 white sturgeon, and 6 walleye.

2002 Zone 6 Set Net Counts						
Date	Mesh Restrictions	Bonn	The Dalles	John Day	Total	Comments
Aug. 29	8" min.	132	134	101	367	2001 Aug 31 counts were 398
Sep. 5	8" min.	94	98	151	342	97-99 Sep 3-5 counts range 335-614
Sep. 13	8" min.	123	126	187	436	97-01 Sept. 6-13 counts range 378-626

Fishery Proposals

Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery

- Preseason catch expectations for late September fisheries (after September 14) include 8,500 chinook (3,900 URB's) and 10,000 coho.
- Based on chinook run size updates and commercial fisheries to date, an estimated 4,980 UBR's (10,740 total chinook) are available for harvest during commercial fisheries in late September.

Recommendation	
The Joint Staff recommends adoption of the following commercial salmon fishing period:	
Season:	7 PM Thursday September 19 - 7 AM Friday September 20 (12 hours).
Area:	Lower Zone 4 Boundary from Warrior Point on Oregon shore to the Lewis River mouth on the Washington shore upstream to Beacon Rock (Zones 4-5)
Sanctuaries:	Sandy and Washougal rivers.
Gear:	8" minimum mesh size restriction.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon.
Expected Catch:	2,000-5,000 chinook. <1,000 coho <100 white sturgeon
Miscellaneous:	Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers.

- ✓ The proposed fishery is consistent with the Fall Management Agreement and results of the North of Falcon negotiation process.

- ✓ Proposed fishery provides commercial fishing opportunity to the majority of the lower Columbia River.
- ✓ Closed area between Longview Bridge and Warrior Point/Lewis River line limits impacts to LRH fall chinook.
- ✓ The 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction targets the fishery on chinook salmon and minimizes impact to state-listed coho salmon.
- ✓ The night time fishing period is intended to increase chinook catch.

<i>Option</i>	
<u>Coho Salmon Fishery</u>	
Season:	7 AM - 7 PM Tuesday September 24 (12 hours).
Area:	Mouth upstream to Longview Bridge (Zones 1-3)
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokommin -A, and Abernathy Creek.
Gear:	Unslackened floater gill nets with 6" maximum mesh size restriction.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and white sturgeon.
Expected Catch:	500-1,500 chinook. 4,000-7,000 coho <100 white sturgeon
Miscellaneous:	Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers.
<u>Chinook Salmon Fishery</u>	
Season:	7 PM Tuesday September 24 - 7 AM Wednesday September 25 (12 hours).
Area:	Lower Zone 4 Boundary from Warrior Point on Oregon shore to the Lewis River mouth on the Washington shore upstream to Beacon Rock (Zones 4-5)
Sanctuaries:	Sandy and Washougal rivers.
Gear:	8" minimum mesh size restriction.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon.
Expected Catch:	1,000-3,000 chinook. <1,000 coho <100 white sturgeon
Miscellaneous:	Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers.

- ✓ Without any action today an additional Compact hearing will be required on Monday to adopt this or any other option; therefore, the Joint Staff prefers taking action today.
- ✓ This fishery option would not begin until 7 AM Tuesday which would provide the opportunity to analyze previous fisheries and modify any adopted fishery on Monday if necessary.
- ✓ This fishery option is consistent with the Fall Agreement and results of the North of Falcon negotiations process.
- ✓ This fishery option provides commercial fishing opportunity to the majority of the lower Columbia River.
- ✓ The closed area between Longview Bridge and Lewis River/Warrior Point line reduces impacts on both LRH fall chinook salmon and state-listed coho salmon.
- ✓ The 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction and night time fishing period above the Lewis River/Warrior Point line focuses the fishery on chinook salmon and limits impacts to state-listed coho while the 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction and daylight fishing period below Longview Bridge focuses the fishery on surplus hatchery coho and limits impacts to LRH fall chinook.

Treaty Indian Fishery Proposals

- The tribes may propose commercial fishery openings at this hearing.

Impacts Summary

Summary of Fishery Impacts During Fall of 2002			
Fishery	Chinook Catch	URB Impacts	
		No.	%
Treaty Indian Fisheries			
August C&S	80		
Commercial through Sep 14 (Preliminary)	97,200	37,627	13.74%
Commercial through Sep 20 (Projected)	113,319	48,365	17.66%
Treaty Indian Total	113,399	48,365	17.66%
Non-Indian Fisheries			
Early August Commercial	8,160	790	0.29%
Late August Commercial	11,500	1,930	0.70%
September Commercial (thru 9/16)	3,410	1,120	0.41%
Select Area Commercial (Proj. Total)	6,800	370	0.13%
Buoy 10 Sport	18,700	1,140	0.42%
LCR Sport (Proj. Total)	24,000	9,580	3.50%
Zone 6 Sport (Proj. Total)	1,300	1,210	0.44%
Remaining Commercial Fisheries	13,920	6,470	2.36%
Non-Indian Total	86,790	22,610	8.25%
Grand Total	201,189	70,975	25.91%

- Impacts on wild Group B index steelhead by treaty Indian fisheries are estimated to total 5.2% through September 20.
- Impacts on wild Group B index steelhead are expected to total 1.5% for all non-Indian fisheries.
- Ocean fishery impacts to Oregon state listed wild coho destined for lower Columbia River tributaries are projected to total 11.1% as compared to the preseason expectation of 11.1%. Freshwater fishery impacts are projected to total 2.4% as compared to the preseason expectation of 2.9%.

Future Compact Hearings

- The Joint Staff recommends that the next Compact hearing be scheduled for 1 PM Wednesday September 25 at the Commission room in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Headquarters office located at 2501 SW First Avenue, Portland, Oregon for the purpose of reviewing salmon and steelhead stock status, reviewing fisheries, and considering commercial fishing options.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
September 18, 2002